

HoltraChem Site ATSDR Health Consultation Report

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) announced the release of a Health Consultation for the HoltraChem Manufacturing Company (HoltraChem), Orrington, Maine. On August 21, 2006 ATSDR released the Health Consultation regarding public exposure to mercury during the demolition and remediation of the HoltraChem site. This report was prepared by ATSDR Division of Health Assessment and Consultation at the request of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP).

The ATSDR staff reviewed the Air Monitoring Program mercury emission value, set by Maine DEP, and agreed that 300 nanograms per cubic meter mercury at the property line is protective of public health. The staff also reviewed the Maine DEP air modeling of the potential off-site mercury concentrations during the 6 phases of site remediation. Based upon the modeled concentrations at off-site receptors, ATSDR classified current and potential future off-site mercury concentrations during remediation as no apparent public health hazard.

This ATSDR determination is based upon a number of conditions and assumptions including that no more than one landfill is opened for remediation at a time and that there is increased frequency of air monitoring for mercury until analytical data on the type of mercury and its concentration are obtained and evaluated. Since the conclusions are based on modeling of projected emissions, not measured emissions, the modeling should be re-run and the data evaluated to determine if public exposures will be adversely affected, if (1) analytical data from materials in the landfills show that the mercury present is different or its concentration is higher than estimated, (2) more than one landfill will be opened at a time, (3) the hours or months of operation change, (4) any development is proposed within 1 mile of the plant before completion of the excavation of the 5 landfills, or (5) any other changes occur that could affect the off-site concentrations of mercury.

The ATSDR evaluated the air modeling data for four options as developed by the Maine DEP. These options were:

- (1) Excavate all soil and sediment, treat Cell Building soil to remove elemental mercury; dispose of concentrate at offsite hazardous waste landfill; excavate only landfill 2; chemically stabilize sludge to meet EPA landfill disposal restrictions; place all material in unlined onsite management unit with no leachate collection; intercept, collect and treat contaminated groundwater for a minimum of 30 years.
- (2) Excavate all soil, all landfills, and sediment, treat Cell Building soil to remove elemental mercury; dispose of concentrate at off-site hazardous waste landfill; chemically stabilize all landfill sludge; place low-mercury soil, sediment, and stabilized sludge in unlined on-site landfill with no leachate collection; intercept, collect, and treat contaminated groundwater for a minimum of 30 years.
- (3) Excavate all soil, all landfills, and sediment, treat Cell Building soil to remove elemental mercury; dispose of concentrate at off-site hazardous waste landfill;

chemically stabilize all landfill sludge; place low-mercury soil, sediment, and stabilized sludge in lined on-site landfill with leachate collection; intercept, collect, and treat contaminated groundwater for a minimum of 30 years.

- (4) Excavate all soil, all landfills, and sediment, treat Cell Building soil to remove elemental mercury; ship sludges and Cell Building concentrate to off-site hazardous waste landfill without further onsite treatment; ship all other material offsite for disposal in industrial landfill; intercept, collect, and treat contaminated groundwater for a minimum of 30 years.

The ATSDR is developing a Fact Sheet regarding the Health Consultation Report which will explain the results and which will be mailed to area residents. In the meantime the Health Consultation Report is available at the Maine DEP office in Augusta.